Environmental crisis in Chandigarh

4378 SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chandigarh is on the verge of an environmental crisis with the lush green belt being replaced by concrete structures;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of original area of green belt and the structures presently lying thereon; and

(c) the steps being taken to restore the eco-system of the city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Conference on Evironment and Development held at RIO

4379. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of delegates and their Companion sent to the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development held recently at Rio De Janerio;

(b) wrat is the total amount spent in Indian Currency and Foreign exchange separately for this purpose; and

(c) what expenditure was iscurredon Prime Minister's trip to attend the Rio Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The relevant information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Forest cover in Bihar

4380. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present forest cover in Bihar;

(b) whether Government are aware that the forest cover in the State is depleting due to the use of wood as fuel for cooking and other purposes;

(c) if so, what action Govemment propose to take to make available fire wood in plenty in the State without dis turbing the ecological balance;

(d) what action Government have taken for the large scale afforestation in Bihar, particularly on the wastelands; and

(e) what co-operation the Govern ment of Bihar is providing in this re gard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The actual forest cover in Bihar as repirted in the State of Forest Report 1991 is 26,668 sq. Kms.

(b) There is no depletion in the Forest cover in Bihar, Since it has remained unaltered during the period 1985—87 fo 3987—89 as per the State of Forest Reports 1989 and 1991 respectively.

(c) Felling, and extraction of trees in the forests are done by the State Wing of the State Forest Department of Bihar. This Wing has established fuel-wood and small wood depots in urban and rural areas.

The village rightholders also meet their requirements from right-holders' coupes for their fuelwood and small timber requirements free of cost.

(d) State Forest Department is doing large scale plantation on road side, de-nal banks and other Govemment lands in North Bihar. For South Bihar an externally aided Social Forestry Pro ject was started in 1985 and planta tions have been raised in degraded forests as well as on raiyati (farmers) lands and other Government lands on a large scale. The social Forestry Pro ject has ended in March 1992, but plan tations are still being raised in depleted forest area$_s$ under schemes approved

by (he State Government. Extension plantations are being taken up under Fuelwood and fodder project schemes and also rehabilitation of degraded forests in the State.

(e) The State Government have approved Schemes for raising plantations under fuelwood and fodder project and rehabilitation of degraded forests.

Tree Growers Co-perative Project in Rajasthan, Orissa and Tamil Nadu

4381. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Swedea has provided any Aid to Support a new "TREE GROWERS CO-OPERATIVE PROJECT" in Rajasthan, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. If so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have signed any Agreement to this effect with some other countries also; and

(c) if so, the manner in which this project is proposed to be fundel and the General Assistance proposed to be provided State-wise during 1992-93 and actually given till date particularly to Rajasthan and Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF (ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH (a) to (c) An agreement has been sigsed on 30th July, 1992 with the Government of Sweden for obtaining finnacial assistance to implement the Tree Growers' Cooperatives Project in Rajasthan, Orrisa and Tamil Tadu. The Assistance will be in form of Palmolein oil which will be received and monetized by the National Dairy Development Board and the funds so generated will be placed at the disposal of the National Tree Growers' Co-operatives Federation Limited, which is the implementsg agency. The total project cost is Rs. 24.47 crores oper a contribution will he about 75 per cent tJnder the project, 100 tree An area comprising 4430 hectares of private land and 5250 heltares of common land is proposed to be covered usder the project.

The appraised project document (APO) provides for the allocation of Rs. 2.1 million each to Rajasthan, Orrisa and Tamil Nadu for setting up tree growers cooperatives in the first year of implementation. However, the agreement having been signed only on 30th July. 1992 the final allocation is still to be decided.

The Government have not signed any other agreement with other coustriesfor setting up Tree Growers Cooperatives. However, negotiations are in process with the Canadian Government for their providing external assistance to set up Tree Growers Cooperatives in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat. The tentative cost of the project, under which it is proposed to set up 100 Tree Growers Cooperatives in each State, is about Rs. 44 crores.

Violation of prevention of cruelty to Animals Act in Bombay

4382. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crimes against animals are committed at. the De-onar abattoir, Bombay by those incharge of it as well as by those misusing it in violation of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, I960, as reported in the Sunday Observer, New Delhi of 2nd August, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that animals are brought to Bombay in congested trucks and lorries in shocking conditions resulting in death of many animals due to suffocation;

(d) whether it i_s also a fact that acid is poured into their nostrils and tobacco is rubbed into their eyes so that the animals stand up for slaughter; and

(e) what action. Govemment have taken or propose to take to' check the crimes being committed against animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND